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ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL,
DUPAGE RIVER DAM

HAER No. IL-43

I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Between Lock Nos. 6 and 7 on DuPage River
Channahon
Will County
Illinois

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
ILLINOIS AND MICHIGAN CANAL, DUPAGE RIVER DAM
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor

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HAER No. IL-43

Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Between Lock No. 6 and No. 7, on the
DuPage River
Channahon, Will County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.397440 N.4586120
Quad: Channahon

Date of Construction: 1846; rebuilt 1934

Designer: William Gooding

Present Owner: State of Illinois

Significance: Designed by chief engineer William
Gooding, the DuPage River dam served as
slackwater dam for barges crossing the
river between Lock No. 6 and Lock No. 7
at Channahon.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was
designated a National Heritage Corridor
in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER
embarked on an extensive inventory and
documentation project of the 100 mile-
long corridor. Field work for this
project was concluded in 1988. Final
editing of the documentation was
completed in 1992.

Historians: David Kelliher and Timothy Whittaker,
1986; Carolyn Brucken, 1992.

Rather than bridging the DuPage River with an aqueduct, chief engineer William Gooding designed a slackwater dam whereby canal barges were pulled across the river behind the dam. The original structure, a timber crib dam, was probably built in the 1840s. About one-quarter mile upstream from the dam was the entrance to the DuPage River feeder canal which watered the I & M to the west. In 1877 a stone dam replaced the much-repaired crib dam. The 1877 dam was constructed at a cost of \$3,207.24 and was 150' long and 11' high. Floods in 1918, 1920 and 1925 damaged this stone dam and in August 1934 work began on the present reinforced concrete dam. The Civilian Conservation Corps carried out the work at a cost of \$14,647.

SOURCES:

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey, "Early [Illinois and Michigan] Canal Locks, Channahon, Illinois, Survey No. IL 157," two sheets of drawings and field notes, dated 1936, available at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

State of Illinois, Report of the Canal Commissioners to Shelby M. Cullon, Gov. of Illinois, Dec. 1st, 1877 (Springfield IL: State of Illinois, 1877).

State of Illinois, Division of Waterways, Annual Report, for years 1918, 1919-20, 1920-21 and 1925-26, (published by the State of Illinois, Springfield, IL).